

MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY  
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 13, 2014

**Roll Call:**

Members Present: Andrea Jobe, Molly O'Donnell, Gary Charbonneau, David Rollo, Joseph Kielar, Jeff Jewel, Bill Brown, Cynthia Schultz, Randy Cassady, Jana McGee

Regrets: Jessica Pittman

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: members of Bill Brown's IU V515 class

Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Announcements**

Molly shared info on a Going Solar presentation for Indiana congregations focusing on how to fund solar panels. Members of SIREN will also be there to answer questions. It will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington on Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. It will also be live streamed and recorded.

Andrea shared a series of children's books by Christian Dorian that illustrate how the world works, how we make stuff, etc.

Possible future presentations could include a presentation on the IU raingarden program; invite Alison Zook from Local First Bloomington to come back; local cooperatives presentation (Jeff Jewel); cities as centers of climate mitigation (Jana).

There will be a public meeting tomorrow regarding the Monroe County Rapidly Urbanizing Area Plan. 5:30pm in the Nat U. Hill Room at the courthouse.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from October and November 2014 were approved unanimously.

**Presentation: STAR Communities**

Bill Brown's class was split into three groups to address different aspects of the STAR Communities ranking system. See their final written reports for additional details on their findings.

*Group #1: Critical Waste Streams*

- Climate & Energy, Area 7: Waste Minimization
  - Outcome 1: Show incremental waste reduction
    - available data shows incremental reduction, but available data only includes waste collected by the City of Bloomington
    - Recommendations: Develop better data, create a textile diversion program
  - Action 1: Adopt a waste management plan
    - element of this are in place based on work by the Environmental Commission
  - Action 8: Programs and Services
    - Organic Waste Streams:

- Yard waste: Sanitation dept already collects yard waste on a regular basis, and the Street Dept collects leaves. Both waste streams are taken to Good Earth for composting.
  - Recommendations: Raise price of yard waste collection; phase out free fall leaf collection; implement a backyard composting program (see example from Austin TX)
- Sewage sludge – collected and dewatered at both treatment plants, and then trucked to either the on-site Dillman landfill or the Medora landfill (about 40 miles away).
  - Consider anaerobic digestion or ways to reuse sludge
- Hazardous waste
  - Good hazardous waste recycling program already in place
  - Increase awareness of collection site
- E-waste – already collected by Solid Waste District on a daily basis; City collections, IU Surplus, etc.
  - Recommendations: education for the public, publicize ways to dispose, remove barriers to disposal
- Construction & demolition waste
  - Currently no recycling goals adopted by the City
  - Conduct waste study to id any problem materials, consider establishing diversion requirements
- Reusable consumer goods: not listed as critical waste stream so an opportunity for innovation points
  - Hoosier to Hoosier Sale
  - Recommendations: Consider public transit to the sale, increasing convenience of donations; identify a permanent location; increase number of interns (sale coordinators) each summer; sell during orientation; sell different items at different times

*Group #2: Equity & Empowerment; Education, Arts, and Culture; Economy & Jobs*

- Outcome 1: Community Cohesion
  - Found that 88.4% of residents live within 1 mile of a community venue
- MHI, Outcome 1: Quality Jobs and Living Wages
  - Data shows compliance with STAR requirements for increased income over time
- Bus Retention & Development, Action 5: using TIF districts to retain businesses
- Green Market Development
  - Action 4: create a green purchasing policy for green energy supplies
  - Action 6: create sustainable educational materials for businesses – MCSWMD has a Go Green Guide
  - Action 7: sustainable purchasing policy
  - Action 8: create programs to help businesses transition to new green practices – MCSWMD Green Business Network
  - Action 9: Green business promotion program – Green Business Network offers certification program – could benefit from additional publicity
    - Chamber of Commerce green business program is being discontinued
    - Numerous funding opportunities to support green businesses
- Local Economy
  - Action 3: locally oriented purchasing policies
  - Action 4: support campaigns to buy local

*Group #3: Natural Systems Protection; Health & Safety*

- Natural systems

- Outcome 2: wetlands, streams and shoreline buffers – consider partnering with GIS classes to determine baseline of buffer area
- Action 1: Land conservation plan development
- Action 3: creation of advisory board to inform land conservation
  - Environmental Commission, Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission, BCOS
  - Would likely get points for this action
- Action 5: education and outreach – could likely get points for this action
- Health and Human Hazards
  - Action 1: Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan – exists from 2010, need to verify that it is still in use
  - Action 3: Education and outreach, need to show 3 existing programs – could likely get points for this category

### **Report from the Chair**

There are still three vacancies on the Commission. Please share any candidates with the co-chairs.

Priorities for 2015:

- Support the Monroe County Energy Challenge
  - All committees need more people; also need for people to act as champions in neighborhoods, businesses, or in other organizations.
  - Molly and Jacqui presented at Meadowood Retirement Community this morning.
  - Joe and Randy can help get the word out to their vendors
- Promote ordinances that will further sustainability goals: plastic bag ordinance, urban-ag friendly policies
- Make Bloomington a major food hub
  - Jeff has been working with a number of people to develop Bloomington into a food hub (dealing with production, aggregation, distribution). Bill suggested that the IUOS Food Working Group also be involved. Jana also expressed interest.

The next BCOS meeting will be held in a different location, at the Monroe County Public Library, Room 1B, on January 13.

### **Report from the Sustainability Coordinator**

Jacqui noted that the Monroe County Energy Challenge is still waiting to hear whether the plan has been accepted into the semifinals. The Challenge will proceed whether or not the plan is accepted, and will launch in January.

Andrea gave an update on local efforts to reduce local plastic bag use. The Center for Sustainable Living is leading the effort, and current activities are focused on learning about possible barriers to implementation, educating businesses and the public, etc.

### **Committee reports**

*Environmental Commission update* – Andrea attended the most recent meeting. The Tree Commission is drafting a replacement policy for trees. They are also considering investing in Treekeeper 7.

The Climate Action Plan is proceeding – the EC intern is trying to winnow down the material collected by the previous intern.

### **New Business**

No new business

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.